

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry**

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2983

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify An Easement across State Park Land

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that the owners of certain property adjacent to Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park do have an easement across park property in order to access their property.

SPONSOR: **Senator Sullivan of York**

LR 2759

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Increase the Number of Members on the Board of Pesticides Control

SUMMARY

This bill would add to the membership of the Board of Pesticide Control a person who represents a statewide association for structural pest management operators and a 3rd member to represent the public who represents a statewide business association.

SPONSOR: **Representative Twomey of Biddeford**

LR 3035

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Use of Fallen Apples in Apple Cider

SUMMARY

This bill would allow those apple orchards that do not have cows on the premises to use fallen apples in apple cider

BROAD SUBJECT: **Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

SPONSOR: **Representative Austin of Gray**

LR 2898

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Volunteer-earned Funds of the Maine Wildlife Park

SUMMARY

This bill would ensure that volunteer-earned funds of the Maine Wildlife Park could not be used to reduce overall state funding of the park.

SPONSOR: **Senator Bromley of Cumberland**

LR 2748

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Ensure the Continued Ability of the Maine Economic Growth Council To Produce the Measures of the Growth Report

SUMMARY

This bill would appropriate \$10,000 to the Maine Economic Growth Council in order that it may continue to produce the Measures of Growth report.

BROAD SUBJECT: Appropriations and Financial Affairs

SPONSOR: Representative Campbell of Newfield

LR 2641

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Supplemental Funding for Mileage Reimbursement for Volunteers for the Meals on Wheels Programs

SUMMARY

This bill provides supplemental funding for mileage reimbursement for volunteers for the meals on wheels program. This funding is needed as soon as possible due to the substantial increase in the price of gasoline

SPONSOR: Representative Cummings of Portland

LR 2985

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create a Block Grant Program To Promote Economic and Cultural Development

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a General Fund bond issue to authorize the Department of Economic and Cultural Development to create a block grant program to promote economic and cultural development.

SPONSOR: Representative Daigle of Arundel

LR 2718

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Assist the Cities of Biddeford and Saco

SUMMARY

This bill would provide an appropriation of up to \$8,000,000 to help the cities of Biddeford and Saco purchase the Maine Energy Recovery Company incinerator. The amount is dependent upon the amount approved at local referendum in November 2005.

SPONSOR: Senator Diamond of Cumberland

LR 2906

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Funding for the Construction of a Regional Career Center

SUMMARY

This bill would provide funding for the construction of a regional career center in Casco. This center would provide career training and services, including technical training, job placement and transitional services, to teens and adults who are 20 years of age and younger.

SPONSOR: Representative Fischer of Presque Isle

LR 2615

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Military Families

SUMMARY

This bill will provide a \$250,000 life insurance policy free to members of the Maine Army National Guard who go into combat zones.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

SPONSOR: **Representative Perry, A of Calais**

LR 2576

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Increase Supervision of Red Tide on the Maine Coast

SUMMARY

This bill would appropriate funding to the Water Quality Division in the Department of Marine Resources to allow the division to hire more seasonal interns to test for red tide.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2617

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Assist Visually Impaired Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Obtaining Information Regarding Current Events

SUMMARY

This bill would establish an accessible electronic information service for eligible blind and disabled persons. The service would convert text-based information, including newspapers, into synthetic speech or Braille suitable for statewide distribution with modern telecommunications technology.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2753

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Recapitalize the Maine Downtown Center

SUMMARY

This bill would appropriate funds to recapitalize the Maine Downtown Center.

SPONSOR: **Representative Sockalexis of Penobscot Nation**

LR 2578

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Funding for Tribal Economic Development for the Penobscot Indian Nation and Other Federally Recognized Tribes

SUMMARY

This bill appropriates funds for the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide financial assistance to the Penobscot Indian Nation and other federally recognized tribes for economic development. These funds are to assist the nation and tribes with funds for feasibility studies, implementation of economic projects, matching funds and economic development planning activities.

BROAD SUBJECT: Appropriations and Financial Affairs

SPONSOR: Representative Sockalexis of Penobscot Nation

LR 2582

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish a Penobscot Language Preservation Fund in the Department of Education

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Penobscot Language Preservation Fund and appropriates funds for the Department of Education to provide financial assistance to the Penobscot Indian Nation to maintain and preserve the Penobscot language. The language program must be maintained and managed under the auspices of the tribal cultural and historic preservation department. These funds may also be used to match other funding sources as necessary.

SPONSOR: Representative Woodbury of Yarmouth

LR 2905

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Make Minor Technical Changes to Maine's Spending Growth Benchmarks

SUMMARY

This bill would make technical changes to the spending growth limits enacted in Public Law 2005, chapter 2 correcting certain errors and omissions in the original language.

BROAD SUBJECT: Banking and Insurance

SPONSOR: Representative Ash of Belfast

LR 2627

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Consumers from Credit Card and Debit Card Holds

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit merchants from placing a hold on a credit or debit card for an amount more than is actually spent. Merchants and credit and debit card companies would have one hour from the actual sale to reduce the temporary hold amount to no more than the actual amount of the sale rounded to the nearest dollar.

SPONSOR: Representative Ash of Belfast

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BROAD SUBJECT: **Banking and Insurance**

SPONSOR: **Representative Bryant, M of Windham**

LR 2927

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Increase Agent Participation for Insurance Products

SUMMARY

This bill would provide a broader agent base for health insurance products and increase agent participation

SPONSOR: **Senator Cowger of Kennebec**

LR 2457

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require Insurance Companies To Notify the Secretary of State when a Motor Vehicle Has Been Insured

SUMMARY

Current law requires an insurance company to notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when a motor vehicle's insurance has expired. The insurance company does not have to notify the bureau when a motor vehicle has been insured. This bill would require an insurance company to notify the Bureau of Motor Vehicles when a motor vehicle has been insured.

SPONSOR: **Representative Cummings of Portland**

LR 2817

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish Requirements and Standards for Health Savings Accounts for Small Businesses

SUMMARY

This bill would establish requirements and standards for health savings accounts in Maine in order to make them a viable option for small business owners and employees.

SPONSOR: **Representative Glynn of South Portland**

LR 2669

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Increase Accessibility to Health Insurance

SUMMARY

This bill would allow an insurance company to issue a health insurance policy to a person who is not a citizen of the United States.

SPONSOR: **Representative Grose of Woolwich**

LR 2971

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Accommodate Victims of Identity Theft

SUMMARY

This bill, which is modelled on legislation in other states, would require that, for victims of identity theft, credit bureaus remove erroneous information from a victim's credit report.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Banking and Insurance**

SPONSOR: **Senator Martin of Aroostook**

LR 2809

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Health Insurance Consumers

SUMMARY

This bill would prevent insurance carriers, 3rd-party administrators and employee benefit excess loss carriers from passing the savings offset payment on to consumers.

SPONSOR: **Senator Nutting, J of Androscoggin**

LR 2627

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

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SPONSOR: **Senator Nutting, J of Androscoggin**

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SPONSOR: **Representative Piotti of Unity**

LR 2813

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Create a Self-insurance Pool for Land Crossing State-owned Railroad Tracks

SUMMARY

This bill would create a state-run self-insurance pool to cover private landowners who are required to buy insurance for state-owned railroad tracks.

SPONSOR: **Representative Smith, W of Van Buren**

LR 2756

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act to Protect Retirement Funds

SUMMARY

This bill would exempt from creditors all retirement funds, including IRAs.

BROAD SUBJECT: Banking and Insurance

SPONSOR: Senator Sullivan of York

LR 2655

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Amend the Maine Consumer Credit Code as It Relates to Finance Charges for Loans on Open-end Credit

SUMMARY

This bill exempts home equity lines of credit accessed by a credit card from the provision of law that prohibits the imposition of a finance charge on purchases made during a billing cycle if they are paid for not later than 25 days after the closing date of that billing cycle.

SPONSOR: Senator Sullivan of York

LR 2693

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Maine Insurance Guaranty Association Act

SUMMARY

This bill would permit the Workers' Compensation Board to audit workers' compensation claims administered by the Maine Insurance Guaranty Association. Under current law, the Workers' Compensation Board does not have that authority. The Maine Insurance Guaranty Association administers claims of insolvent carriers made by Maine residents formerly insured by an insolvent carrier.

SPONSOR: Representative Tardy of Newport

LR 2814

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Access Federal Money for Health Insurance Reform

SUMMARY

This bill would require the State to apply for federal money that is being made available to states by Congress.

BROAD SUBJECT: Business and Economic Development

SPONSOR: President Edmonds of Cumberland

LR 2850

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Maintain Standards for the Plumbing Profession

SUMMARY

This bill would create equity in the number of hours required for on-the-job training for a plumbing journeyman's license.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Business and Economic Development**

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2854

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Maintain Standards for Consumers of Mechanical Services

SUMMARY

This bill would establish the Heating, Cooling and Air Distribution Board within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and establish the powers and duties of the board, including the promulgation of rules and standards governing the installation, alteration and repair of heating, cooling and air distribution equipment and enforcement of those rules and standards. The bill would also create a licensing system for master, journeyman and apprentice heating, cooling and air distribution technicians.

SPONSOR: **Senator Hobbins of York**

LR 2960

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Implement Model Timeshare Foreclosure Procedures

SUMMARY

This bill would create a nonjudicial timeshare foreclosure procedure based on model national legislation.

SPONSOR: **Representative Jacobsen of Waterboro**

LR 2707

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Exempt Platform Lifts from the Annual Elevator Inspection

SUMMARY

This bill would exempt platform lifts from the annual elevator inspection.

SPONSOR: **Representative Pelletier-Simpson of Auburn**

LR 2465

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Drivers' Privacy by Clarifying Ownership of Data Recorded by Event Data Recorders

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that a motor vehicle owner owns the data recorded by an event data recorder installed in the motor vehicle. Insurance companies would not be allowed access. Law enforcement could obtain access only with a court order or subpoena.

SPONSOR: **Representative Perry, A of Calais**

LR 2852

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Accountability of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify the accountability of advanced-practice registered nurses by defining certain terms that apply to advanced-practice registered nursing.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Business and Economic Development**

SPONSOR: **Senator Raye of Washington**

LR 2900

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Washington County Economic Development Task Force

SUMMARY

This bill would implement certain recommendations of the Washington County Economic Development Task Force

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2604

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish a Development Authority for Brunswick Naval Air Station

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a development authority for the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2605

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Emergency Regional Economic Development Assistance for Brunswick Naval Air Station

SUMMARY

This bill strikes provisions in the Pine Tree Development Zone laws pertaining to limitations to labor market areas with a greater than 5% loss of population within 3 years and adds a provision allowing other limitations to be named for certain properties within commercial, industrial or military sites with a greater than 25% loss of employed workers over a 4-year period.

SPONSOR: **Representative Robinson of Raymond**

LR 2704

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Protect Small Payroll Processors

SUMMARY

This bill would provide for bonding through a state agency to small payroll processors who have not been able to access bonding through the marketplace.

SPONSOR: **Representative Sherman of Hodgdon**

LR 2736

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require That Automobile Extended Service Warranties Purchased by Maine Citizens for Provide Arbitration in the State

SUMMARY

This bill would require that an automobile extended warranty sold in this State must provide that arbitration regarding the warranty occur in the State of Maine.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Criminal Justice**

SPONSOR: **Senator Bartlett of Cumberland**

LR 2503

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require Mandatory Training for Law Enforcement Officers and Prosecutors Regarding Interaction with People with Developmental Disabilities, Including Autism Spectrum Disorders

SUMMARY

This bill requires mandatory training for law enforcement officers and prosecutors regarding citizens with developmental disabilities.

SPONSOR: **Representative Crosthwaite of Ellsworth**

LR 2676

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide for the Issuance of a Bench Warrant upon Failure To Appear for a Hearing on Nonpayment of a County Jail Reimbursement Fee

SUMMARY

This bill would provide for the issuance of a bench warrant if a defendant does not appear for a hearing on a motion to enforce payment of a jail reimbursement fee.

SPONSOR: **Representative Curley of Scarborough**

LR 2672

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow Law Enforcement Agencies To Maintain Public Sex Offender Registry Websites

SUMMARY

This bill would allow any law enforcement agency, not just the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Identification, to maintain a public sex offender registry website.

SPONSOR: **Senator Diamond of Cumberland**

LR 2497

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish and Classify Penalties for Multiple Driving License Suspensions

SUMMARY

This bill establishes and classifies penalties for multiple driving license suspensions. It provides a graduated scale of periods of license revocation for drivers with multiple suspensions and a graduated scale of jail time for drivers who are convicted of operating after suspension during these periods of license revocation.

SPONSOR: **Representative Dunn of Bangor**

LR 2921

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act Regarding Criminal History Record Checks

SUMMARY

The bill would direct the Department of Public Safety to adopt rules that ensure that incorrect information is not provided in response to a criminal record check request.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Criminal Justice**

SPONSOR: **Representative Duplessie of Westbrook**

LR 2691

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Enhance Firefighter Safety

SUMMARY

This bill would require structures that use trusses in the floor or roof or parts of the floor or roof to display an emblem on the building signifying that construction and the materials used in the truss construction.

SPONSOR: **Representative Hogan of Old Orchard Beach**

LR 2549

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Enhance the Laws Prohibiting Profiteering on Fuel

SUMMARY

This bill would enhance the penalties for profiteering on fuel.

SPONSOR: **Representative Mills, J of Farmington**

LR 2565

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent Price Gouging

SUMMARY

This bill prevents price gouging.

SPONSOR: **Senator Nutting, J of Androscoggin**

LR 2935

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Deter Environmental Terrorism in the State

SUMMARY

This bill would enact measures designed to discourage environmental terrorism.

SPONSOR: **Representative Paradis of Frenchville**

LR 2904

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Amend the Law Governing DNA Testing

SUMMARY

This bill would shift the burden of proof to the State in cases where DNA samples prove that the convicted person is not the perpetrator of the crime.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Criminal Justice**

SPONSOR: **Representative Smith, N of Monmouth**

LR 2648

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Inform and Protect the Public Regarding State Employees with Certain Criminal Records

SUMMARY

This bill requires that any employee of the State of Maine who is in direct contact with the public and has been convicted of a sex offense or violent crime be required to have that record revealed to the public. The public will have the option of requesting a different employee.

SPONSOR: **Representative Thomas of Ripley**

LR 2914

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Facilitate Inspections of Heating Appliances and Chimneys

SUMMARY

This bill would allow fire departments to provide inspections of installations of wood stoves and other heating appliances as well as chimneys without waiving liability.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Education and Cultural Affairs**

SPONSOR: **Representative Bierman of Sorrento**

LR 2926

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Relating to the Flanders Bay Community School District

SUMMARY

SPONSOR: **Senator Brennan of Cumberland**

LR 2644

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Regarding Standardized Testing in Maine

SUMMARY

This bill would prevent the Department of Education from adopting standardized assessment testing indefinitely. This bill constitutes an emergency since the Commissioner of Education has decided to replace the State's education assessment with the SAT for high school juniors this spring . Without this legislation, the Legislature will not be able to act on this decision which could put low-income students at risk of being disadvantaged in planning and applying for college.

SPONSOR: **Senator Brennan of Cumberland**

LR 2785

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent the Use of Nutritional Supplements by Maine Student Athletes

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit nonmedically necessary use of certain nutritional supplements by student athletes in Maine schools in kindergarten to grade 12.

BROAD SUBJECT: Education and Cultural Affairs

SPONSOR: Senator Brennan of Cumberland

LR 2870

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Invest in the Future of Maine Citizens

SUMMARY

This bill would establish resources to improve the health, well-being, education and economic security of Maine citizens by enhancing and expanding early education opportunities, after-school initiatives, physical education programs and access to higher education scholarships.

SPONSOR: Senator Bryant, B of Oxford

LR 2473

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Concerning Members of School Administrative Districts' Finance Committees

SUMMARY

Under this bill, the finance committee of a board of directors for a school administrative district is made up of at a minimum 3 members. Current law sets the membership at 3.

SPONSOR: Representative Cain of Orono

LR 2867

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Promote Youth Involvement in County and Local Government

SUMMARY

This bill would create an internship program that pairs college-aged students with county and local governments. Students must have completed at least 2 years of college or just graduated from college, and must be Maine residents or out-of-state students attending college in Maine. This internship program would be administered by the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy at the University of Maine

SPONSOR: Representative Clark of Millinocket

LR 2804

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Enable Local Adult Education Programs To Play a Greater Role in Helping Dislocated Workers

SUMMARY

This bill would require the State Department of Labor to ensure that representatives of the local adult education community are participants in the planning and execution of initiatives designed to assist dislocated workers.

SPONSOR: Senator Courtney of York

LR 2490

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Provide State Funding for the Fingerprinting of School Personnel

SUMMARY

This bill would require that the State pay for the fingerprinting of school personnel.

BROAD SUBJECT: Education and Cultural Affairs

SPONSOR: Representative Farrington of Gorham

LR 2835

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Inform Parents of Students' Privacy Rights

SUMMARY

This bill would require all public high schools to inform parents of students in those high schools of the parents rights under the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 9528, which deals with armed forces recruiter access to students. High schools would be required to provide an "opt out" selection on the mandatory emergency cards sent to parents.

SPONSOR: Senator Mayo of Sagadahoc

LR 2657

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act Regarding the Sharing of Costs in Certain School Districts

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the transition adjustment for member municipalities within certain school administrative districts and community school districts that are eligible under the provisions of P&SL 2005, chapter 23, section 1. That transition adjustment provision was created to shift the contribution levels of certain member municipalities that were adversely impacted by changes to the school funding formula.

SPONSOR: Representative Miller of Somerville

LR 2577

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Restore the Cost-sharing Agreement Established by the Voters of School Administrative District No. 40

SUMMARY

This bill reestablishes the cost-sharing agreement established in 1992 at a referendum election by the voters of School Administrative District No. 40. That cost-sharing formula apportions all the local share contributions to the school district on the basis of 50% of each town's valuation and 50 % of each town's student population. The bill also preserves the right of the voters of a school administrative district to maintain cost-sharing arrangements that are available under current law.

SPONSOR: Representative Mills, J of Farmington

LR 2881

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Authorize Flexibility in School Attendance Requirements in Emergencies

SUMMARY

This bill would allow local school boards to request variances from the Commissioner of Education to allow the boards to lengthen the school day and shorten the school week or to take other measures in the case of fuel shortages or other declared emergencies.

BROAD SUBJECT: Education and Cultural Affairs

SPONSOR: Senator Mitchell of Kennebec

LR 2628

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Promote Economic Development by Enhancing Educational Opportunities

SUMMARY

This bill provides for the continuation of the college transitions pilot projects that are in place in 7 adult education programs. These projects assist persons to transition from job loss to community college by placing them in an adult education setting where they learn about getting back into a learning mode, explore college programs and are placed in an academic setting to improve skills and confidence/

SPONSOR: Senator Raye of Washington

LR 2773

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Save the Marine Trades Center and Strengthen Maine's Boatbuilding Workforce

SUMMARY

This bill would enact measures to ensure the continued operation of the Marine Trades Center in Eastport and to strengthen the boatbuilding workforce in the State.

SPONSOR: Representative Rines of Wiscasset

LR 2777

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow School Districts To Recover Certain Funds

SUMMARY

This bill would allow school districts that receive tuition students to recover Essential Programs and Services targeted funds from the sending districts.

SPONSOR: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

LR 2899

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Amend the Law Governing Warrant Funding for Education

SUMMARY

This resolve would have the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs review and amend the language concerning warrant funding to municipalities for education.

SPONSOR: Senator Sullivan of York

LR 2670

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Include Dental Screening with Other Preschool Testing for Maine's Children

SUMMARY

This bill would add dental screenings to the hearing and vision screenings given to children before they start school.

BROAD SUBJECT: Education and Cultural Affairs

SPONSOR: Representative Thomas of Ripley

LR 2757

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify Provisions Governing Technical Education

SUMMARY

This bill would exempt certain Maine Community College System programs from certain driver education requirements as set forth in statute and related rules of the Department of Secretary of State.

SPONSOR: Representative Tuttle of Sanford

LR 2917

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Concerning Energy Conservation in Schools

SUMMARY

This bill would raise the allowable contract cost for improving school energy conservation and efficiency from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000.

SPONSOR: Senator Weston of Waldo

LR 2708

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Concerning the Implementation of Cuts in Child Development Services

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Legislature to review the implementation of cuts in Child Development Services proposed by the Department of Education and to make changes to the implementation.

BROAD SUBJECT: Health and Human Services

SPONSOR: Representative Brannigan of Portland

LR 2896

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

Resolve, To Ensure the Coordination and Effectiveness in the Provision of Outpatient and Medication Management Services under Maine's Noncategorical Waiver

SUMMARY

This bill provides additional resources to the state agencies and contractors and other agencies involved in providing outreach to people who previously obtained drugs through MaineCare, the low-cost prescription drug program or other prescription drug programs. These resources will be used to help link those who are put at risk because they are unable to obtain medically necessary prescription drugs with those prescription drugs in a timely manner.

SPONSOR: Senator Brennan of Cumberland

LR 2629

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Guarantee Access to Medically Necessary Medications during the Implementation of the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program

SUMMARY

BROAD SUBJECT: Health and Human Services

SPONSOR: Representative Campbell of Newfield

LR 2640

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services To Develop Strategies To Keep Senior Citizens Safe from Falls

SUMMARY

This bill develops public education strategies to reduce falls among older adults; improves the awareness, education and training of health professionals and providers to include falls risk assessment and targeted interventions; and intensifies services and promotes research to determine the most effective ways to prevent and treat falls.

SPONSOR: President Edmonds of Cumberland

LR 2791

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

Resolve, To Appropriately Reimburse and Ensure the Availability of Personal Care Assistant Services

SUMMARY

This bill would increase the pay rate for personal care assistants under the MaineCare program.

SPONSOR: President Edmonds of Cumberland

LR 2991

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve Retention, Quality and Benefits for Direct Care Health Workers

SUMMARY

This bill increases reimbursements for Medicaid providers sufficient to provide health coverage for direct care workers in long-term care settings.

SPONSOR: Representative Fischer of Presque Isle

LR 2539

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Streamline MaineCare Billing

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the payor-of-last-resort policy by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to make payments to private insurers for services when MaineCare is the payor of only resort prior to filing a request for payment.

SPONSOR: Representative Gerzofsky of Brunswick

LR 2990

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Designate the Department of Health and Human Services as the Sole Entity Entitled To Use the 2-1-1 Telephone Number

SUMMARY

This bill would establish 211 as the single phone number to call to obtain information on all services provided by or through the Department of Health and Human Services.

BROAD SUBJECT: Health and Human Services

SPONSOR: Representative Grose of Woolwich

LR 2586

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Law Regarding Smoking in Private Clubs

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the law that allows smoking in private clubs if a majority of the members vote to allow smoking to change the requirement to a majority of those ballots received.

SPONSOR: Representative Lerman of Augusta

LR 2832

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Protect Children from the Onset of Autism

SUMMARY

This bill would protect children from the onset of autism by banning the use of thimerosal.

SPONSOR: Senator Mayo of Sagadahoc

LR 2468

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve the MaineCare Program

SUMMARY

This bill seeks to create a process for carrying out the reform proposed by the Governor to the MaineCare Program. The process needs to include input from the Legislature, providers and consumers.

SPONSOR: Representative Miller of Somerville

LR 2772

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Strengthen and Improve Review Procedures in the Certificate of Need Program

SUMMARY

This bill would propose further improvements to the certificate of need project review process. These improvements arise from the deliberations of the Commission to Study Maine's Hospitals. New procedures would include: lower dollar thresholds for project review, new project reporting requirements, additional methods for determining community need, clarified roles for other state agencies used in the review process and the conduct of certificate of need hearings as adjudicatory proceedings using an impartial hearing officer and APA standards.

SPONSOR: Representative Millett of Waterford

LR 2742

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Improve Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Services

SUMMARY

This bill would improve substance abuse rehabilitation services by creating a process to involve local communities in the licensing process.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Health and Human Services**

SPONSOR: **Senator Mitchell of Kennebec**

LR 2910

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Establish a Child Advocate Position in the Disability Rights Center

SUMMARY

This bill would create a position of child advocate in the Disability Rights Center.

SPONSOR: **Representative Pingree of North Haven**

LR 3029

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Maintain Prescription Drug Benefits for Seniors and People with Disabilities

SUMMARY

This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to provide the same level of pharmacy services to MaineCare members, members in the drugs for the elderly program and those in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program who are also eligible for the new Medicare Part D benefit at no greater cost than members pay for those services now.

SPONSOR: **Senator Plowman of Penobscot**

LR 2574

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Department of Health and Human Services To Locate Parents Who Are Delinquent in Child Support Payments through Information Related to Cellular Telephones

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services to locate parents who are delinquent in child support payments through information in the possession of wireless service providers.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2603

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Enhance Health Care Safety

SUMMARY

This bill creates a Hospital Infections Disclosure Act to improve infection rates.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2750

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Ensure Appropriate Reimbursement of Rising Energy Costs for Long-term Care Facilities

SUMMARY

This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its principles of reimbursement for long-term care facilities to provide proper recognition of rapidly rising energy costs.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Health and Human Services**

SPONSOR: **Senator Rosen, R of Hancock**

LR 2677

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Conform the Certificate of Need Law to Industry Standards

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit the State from disallowing reasonable construction contingency budgeting that is consistent with industry standards in a certificate of need application.

SPONSOR: **Representative Schatz of Blue Hill**

LR 2967

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Streamline Criteria for Municipal General Assistance for Heating and Utility Assistance

SUMMARY

This bill would streamline criteria for municipal general assistance for heating and utility assistance .

SPONSOR: **Senator Sullivan of York**

LR 2630

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Permitting the Recycling of Unused Prescription Drugs

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a prescription drug recycling program or repository for unused medications to be distributed to the needy.

SPONSOR: **Representative Thompson of China**

LR 2475

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Clarify Prescription Drug Labels

SUMMARY

This bill would require that pharmacies include on prescription bottle labels the name of the medication that was written on the doctor's prescription. In this way, if the pharmacy fills the prescription with a generic drug, the patient will be able to identify the medication and take the medication in accordance with the doctor's instructions.

SPONSOR: **Senator Turner of Cumberland**

LR 2647

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Workplace Smoking Laws

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the law regarding smoking in private clubs.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Health and Human Services**

SPONSOR: **Representative Tuttle of Sanford**

LR 2609

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Increase Wheelchair Van Services Reimbursement Rates

SUMMARY

This bill increases the wheelchair reimbursement rate under MaineCare.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

SPONSOR: **Representative Fletcher of Winslow**

LR 2722

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve Water Skiing Safety

SUMMARY

This bill would permit the use of a rear-view wide-angle mirror on a boat while towing a person on water skis.

SPONSOR: **Senator Gagnon of Kennebec**

LR 2679

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing All-terrain Vehicles

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the law requiring express permission of a landowner in order for another person to operate an ATV on that landowner's land. This bill would enact an exception to that requirement if a person has a deeded right of way to the land and that person is obligated to maintain the right of way.

SPONSOR: **Representative Jackson of Fort Kent**

LR 2585

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

Resolve, To Direct the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Increase the Number of Moose Permits

SUMMARY

This bill would increase by 500 the number of moose permits available through the lottery.

SPONSOR: **Representative Joy of Crystal**

LR 2701

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Control Alcohol in the Maine Woods

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits hunters from possessing alcohol while in possession of or in proximity to firearms.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

SPONSOR: **Senator Martin of Aroostook**

LR 2569

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries
and Wildlife To Allow the Operation of Snowmobiles
Registered outside the State at Special Events Occurring in
the State

SUMMARY

This bill corrects an error that was made when Public Law 2005, chapter 457 removed the authority granted to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by Public Law 2005, chapter 1 to allow the operation of snowmobiles registered outside the State at special events occurring in the State.

SPONSOR: **Representative Moody of Manchester**

LR 2661

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Enhance the Integrity of the Moose Lottery

SUMMARY

This bill would require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to have the moose hunting lottery process reviewed annually to ensure that it is applied fairly.

SPONSOR: **Representative Smith, W of Van Buren**

LR 2774

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow Smelt Dipping in Long Lake in Aroostook County

SUMMARY

This bill would provide for the continuation of smelt dipping after 2005 in Long Lake.

SPONSOR: **Representative Watson of Bath**

LR 2614

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent the Introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease

SUMMARY

SPONSOR: **Representative Wheeler of Kittery**

LR 2624

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Archery Hunting Season

SUMMARY

This bill would allow an expanded archery season for deer in areas that are closed to firearm hunting and also would allow the taking of 2 deer during the archery hunting season.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Judiciary**

SPONSOR: **Representative Bowles of Sanford**

LR 2878

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Display of POW-MIA Flags at Courthouses

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize the District Court, Superior Court or Supreme Judicial Court to display the POW-MIA flag at a courthouse whenever the flag of the United States is flown.

SPONSOR: **Senator Bryant, B of Oxford**

LR 2464

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Ensure the Authority of "Do Not Resuscitate" Orders in Advance Health-care Directives

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that a health care directive containing a "DO-NOT-RESUSCITATE" order must be followed by emergency responders.

SPONSOR: **Representative Davis, G of Falmouth**

LR 2450

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Adult Adoptees Access to Their Original Birth Certificates

SUMMARY

This bill would permit an adult adoptee to obtain a copy of the adoptee's original, unaltered birth certificate. It also permits a birth parent to express a preference regarding contact with the adoptee by filing a contact preference form with the registrar of vital records.

SPONSOR: **Representative Dunn of Bangor**

LR 2920

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act Regarding Child Custody Evaluations

SUMMARY

This bill provides good-faith protection for psychologists conducting child custody evaluations similar to protections existing in Florida and West Virginia.

SPONSOR: **Representative Flood of Winthrop**

LR 2590

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allocate Child Support Appropriately

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a court to stop the collection process of back child support if the parent paying the support can prove that the child has been living with that parent during the time of nonpayment of the support.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Judiciary**

SPONSOR: **Representative Grose of Woolwich**

LR 2448

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Living Wills of Terminally Ill Persons

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to set forth standard language to be included in living wills to provide increased guidance and certainty when a patient is terminally ill or when a doctor has determined that all lifesaving means have been exhausted.

SPONSOR: **Representative Hotham of Dixfield**

LR 2741

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Access to Social Security Numbers

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit the use of social security numbers as account numbers by public and private entities.

SPONSOR: **Senator Mayo of Sagadahoc**

LR 2560

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent Elder Financial Abuse

SUMMARY

This bill would make all employees of banks, savings institutions and credit unions mandated reporters of elder financial abuse.

SPONSOR: **Representative Merrill of Appleton**

LR 2642

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Businesses from Unnecessary Eminent Domain Takings

SUMMARY

This bill would require the State to make a showing that the taking is an absolute necessity to accomplish the public purpose. In all instances where it is possible, the State may take only the portion of the business that is necessary for a public purpose so as to allow the private business to continue. This bill would be retroactive in that it would apply to any taking in which the terms of the taking have not been finally determined, including both the process of determining price or a timely filed appeal of that value determination.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Judiciary**

SPONSOR: **Representative Mills, J of Farmington**

LR 2778

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve the Efficiency of the District Court with Regard to Certain Evictions

SUMMARY

This bill is the recommendation of a working group of representatives of landlords, tenants and participants from the judicial system requested by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary to suggest methods of improving the efficiency of the District Court in handling evictions for nonpayment while still ensuring substantive and procedural due process to tenants. This will give the District Court flexibility to adjudicate evictions for nonpayment while nonpayment of rent when the tenant fails to appear in court

It would authorize the court to designate a quasi-judicial officer to determine whether the landlord is in compliance with the forcible entry and detainer process, determine that the only issue is nonpayment of rent and then grant judgment if the tenant fails to appeal. A request for a hearing or the inclusion of any other issues would require the case to be scheduled for the usual eviction docket in that court. This process would be employed in courts in which eviction dockets are not scheduled on a weekly basis.

SPONSOR: **Representative Mills, J of Farmington**

LR 2903

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Correct Deficiencies in the Divorce Laws

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify the grounds and procedures for a divorce in cases in which one spouse has become permanently medically incompetent. This bill would also clarify that the trial court may entertain requests for and issue orders for spousal support while a case is on appeal.

SPONSOR: **Representative Pelletier-Simpson of Auburn**

LR 2459

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify Laws Governing Eminent Domain

SUMMARY

This bill would provide more limited-use eminent domain power than was allowed in the Kelo decision.

SPONSOR: **Senator Perry, J of Penobscot**

LR 2915

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Children from Contact with Convicted Sex Offenders

SUMMARY

This bill would allow a court to consider persons with whom a parent lives in determining whether to grant primary residence or contact. It would allow the court to prohibit residence or contact with a parent who lives with a convicted sex offender.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Judiciary**

SPONSOR: **Senator Strimling of Cumberland**

LR 2571

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Provide Notification to a Person Who Holds a Protection from Abuse Order When the Person against Whom the Order Is Held Attempts To Purchase a Firearm

SUMMARY

This bill provides notification to a person who holds a protection from abuse order when the person against whom the order is held attempts to purchase a firearm.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Labor**

SPONSOR: **Senator Bartlett of Cumberland**

LR 2931

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve the Maine Enterprise Option Program

SUMMARY

This bill would change the Maine Enterprise Option program, which allows a person to start a business and to receive self-employment income without reducing unemployment benefits, by allowing that person to receive per diem compensation as an employee for services provided by that business without a reduction in unemployment benefits.

SPONSOR: **Representative Bryant, M of Windham**

LR 2981

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect the Employment Rights of Military Reserve and National Guard Personnel

SUMMARY

The bill would allow members of the military reserve and National Guard returning from temporary duty overseas 72 hours before returning to work rather than the 8 hours provided under federal law.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2794

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent State Taxpayers from Subsidizing Large Employers

SUMMARY

This bill would require large employers to contribute toward the cost of the state health care system, unless they provide a certain level of funding for employee health coverage.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2795

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Workers from Political Intimidation

SUMMARY

This bill would prevent employers from engaging in coercive practices against employees with regard to political views.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Labor**

SPONSOR: **Representative Fischer of Presque Isle**

LR 2540

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Improve Workplace Safety

SUMMARY

This bill would require businesses to post policies on safety for all employees. If there are more than 15 employees, the business must have training for new hires and annual training for managers. This bill would also create a task force to help improve workplace safety.

SPONSOR: **Representative Flood of Winthrop**

LR 2588

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Limit Variation in the Start and End Times of the Work Day

SUMMARY

The purpose of this bill is to prevent employers from changing the start time and finish time of a work day on a daily basis. The bill proposes to set up guidelines for employers on setting times.

SPONSOR: **Representative Lerman of Augusta**

LR 2828

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Create Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

SUMMARY

This bill would create incentives for employees to hire people with disabilities.

SPONSOR: **Representative Millett of Waterford**

LR 2922

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Change of Beneficiary Provision in the Maine State Retirement System Laws

SUMMARY

This bill would allow a retiree under the Maine State Retirement System to change the beneficiary of that person in the case of a divorce if the divorce judgment stipulates the retiree's pension rights are not marital property.

SPONSOR: **Representative Mills, J of Farmington**

LR 2986

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Clarify the Unemployment Laws Relating to Subcontractors

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that the services performed by a subcontractor are not considered employment for purposes of the unemployment compensation laws if the work performed is generally done by a subcontractor who performs such work for multiple contractors in the course of the subcontractor's annual employment and is the type of work that is generally done by an independent contractor.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: Labor

SPONSOR: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

LR 2606

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Assist Maine Military Families

SUMMARY

This bill requires that businesses with 50 or more employees give 15 unpaid days of leave for immediate family members of any Maine person serving in the military, after the family members' vacation time is used.

SPONSOR: Senator Strimling of Cumberland

LR 2471

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

Resolve, To Direct the Maine State Retirement System To Divest Certain Holdings

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Maine State Retirement System to divest any holdings it has in the countries of Sudan and Uganda due to their human rights violations.

SPONSOR: Senator Weston of Waldo

LR 2895

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow Employers To Make Payments for Undisputed Portions of Workers' Compensation Claims

SUMMARY

This bill would allow an employer to provide payment to an employee filing a workers' compensation claim for those portions of the claim the employer does not dispute.

BROAD SUBJECT: Legal and Veterans Affairs

SPONSOR: Representative Bowles of Sanford

LR 2784

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require That the Costs Associated with Enacting a Direct Initiative Appear on the Ballot

SUMMARY

This bill would require that the costs associated with enacting a direct initiative appear on the ballot

SPONSOR: Representative Canavan of Waterville

LR 2859

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Extend the Lobbyist Reporting Requirements to Executive Branch Lobbying Activities

SUMMARY

This bill would require that individuals who lobby for the executive branch be subject to the same reporting requirements as any lobbyist that receives payment for that lobbyist's services.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Legal and Veterans Affairs**

SPONSOR: **Representative Canavan of Waterville**

LR 2879

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices To Produce a Register with Photos of All Registered Lobbyists

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to require the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to produce an annual register of all lobbyists registered in the State and to supply copies of the register to all members of the Legislature. The register must contain a photo of each lobbyist.

SPONSOR: **Representative Dunn of Bangor**

LR 2890

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow Independent Wineries To Serve Wine at Trade Shows

SUMMARY

This bill would allow independent wineries to serve wine directly to consumers at trade shows.

SPONSOR: **Representative Duplessie of Westbrook**

LR 2685

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Importation of Wine

SUMMARY

This bill would allow the interstate and overseas sale of wine to Maine residents.

SPONSOR: **Representative Mills, J of Farmington**

LR 2894

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow Small Businesses To Participate in Liquor Sales

SUMMARY

This bill would allow for agency liquor stores in a municipality with a population of more than 5,000 but less than 20,000 where a state liquor store has been closed.

SPONSOR: **Representative Patrick of Rumford**

LR 2697

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify Provisions of the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Regarding Promotions

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that agency liquor stores may sell any distilled spirits package, combination of packages, or market promotion material for spirits that has been approved by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission and which conforms to standards set forth under the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Legal and Veterans Affairs**

SPONSOR: **Representative Webster of Freeport**

LR 2851

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Create Fairness in Liquor Licensing Fees

SUMMARY

This bill would create a progressive fee for certain liquor licensing based on the volume of sales.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Marine Resources**

SPONSOR: **Representative Emery of Cutler**

LR 2480

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve Water Monitoring at Clam Flats

SUMMARY

This bill would require the Department of Marine Resources to improve the monitoring of waters at clam flats.

SPONSOR: **Senator Hastings of Oxford**

LR 2709

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Regarding the Appointment of Harbor Masters

SUMMARY

This bill would make discretionary, rather than obligatory the requirement that a harbormaster be appointed upon the request of a person desiring mooring privileges.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Natural Resources**

SPONSOR: **Representative Babbidge of Kennebunk**

LR 2972

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Promote Recycling of Cellular Telephones

SUMMARY

This bill, which is modelled on California law, would promote the recycling of cellular telephones.

SPONSOR: **Senator Cowger of Kennebec**

LR 2635

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Ensure Long-term Capacity of Municipal Landfills

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits municipally owned landfills from accepting out-of-state waste.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Natural Resources**

SPONSOR: **Senator Cowger of Kennebec**

LR 2925

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Consolidate the Management of Solid Waste

SUMMARY

This bill would consolidate the management of solid waste in the Department of Environmental Protection. Currently, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Executive Department, State Planning Office are responsible for the management of solid waste.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2796

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Maine's Groundwater Resources

SUMMARY

This bill would amend Maine law to prevent unreasonable use of groundwater.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2799

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Sustain Good Local Planning Practices

SUMMARY

This bill would allow municipalities with longstanding oversight of subdivisions to continue overseeing development of property, even if that oversight is more rigorous than state law.

SPONSOR: **Senator Hobbins of York**

LR 2721

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's Task Force Regarding the Shutdown of the Maine Energy Recovery Company Trash-burning Facility in Biddeford

SUMMARY

This bill would implement the recommendations of the Governor's task force regarding the shutdown of the Maine Energy Recovery Corporation trash-burning facility in Biddeford.

SPONSOR: **Senator Hobbins of York**

LR 2961

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Sand Dune Protection

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the laws protecting sand dunes to recognize erosion resulting in part from man-made structures and to allow the longer-term placement of an offshore breakwater to protect property.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Natural Resources**

SPONSOR: **Representative Lerman of Augusta**

LR 2536

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide an Energy Emergency Relief Fund To Provide Assistance for Home Heating Oil Costs for Residents of This State and for Gasoline Costs for Service Providers

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a \$5,000,000 energy emergency relief fund to supplement current low-income home heating fuel programs and to provide assistance for higher fuel costs to providers of emergency services.

SPONSOR: **Senator Martin of Aroostook**

LR 2848

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Maine Families and the Environment by Improving the Collection and Recycling of Mercury Thermostats

SUMMARY

This bill would require manufacturers to pay for the safe recovery, collection and recycling of mercury-added thermostats and strengthen the existing mercury thermostat collection laws.

SPONSOR: **Senator Mitchell of Kennebec**

LR 2862

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent Noise and Air Pollution in the Town of Oakland

SUMMARY

This bill would require Guilford Transportation trains that run through the Town of Oakland to stop for a change of crew only at the rail yard where train noise and diesel fumes are anticipated, when stops will not disrupt residential neighbors' sleep and enjoyment of their property and where the noise, fumes and odor pollution will not harm the public.

SPONSOR: **Representative Muse of Fryeburg**

LR 2451

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect the Water Quality of Colcord Pond and Bickford Pond in Porter

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit the use of personal watercraft on Colcord Pond and Bickford Pond in Porter. This request as
LR 2407 was withdrawn at the May 26, 2005 meeting of the Legislative Council.

SPONSOR: **Senator Rosen, R of Hancock**

LR 2583

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve the Water Quality and Safety of Phillips Lake

SUMMARY

This bill would remove the maximum height restriction for the dam at the outlet of Phillips Lake.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Natural Resources**

SPONSOR: **Senator Weston of Waldo**

LR 2860

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish the Maine State Agricultural Drought Protection Act

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a program to protect the rights of farmers for the wise and reasonable use of water during severe agricultural droughts where those rights may be limited by the establishment of a restricted low-flow limit to protect streams from water quality degradation.

SPONSOR: **Senator Weston of Waldo**

LR 2861

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Create the Maine Agricultural Water Source Development and Management Program

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a water source development and management program to ensure that agricultural producers have access to water for crop and livestock needs, especially during agricultural droughts.

BROAD SUBJECT: **State and Local Government**

SPONSOR: **Representative Barstow of Gorham**

LR 2514

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

Resolve, Directing the Cumberland County Commissioners To Establish a Task Force To Establish New County Commissioner Districts

SUMMARY

This bill increases the number of Cumberland County Commissioners from 3 to 7. A task force established by Cumberland County will establish new county commissioner districts to be in place until the next general redistricting.

SPONSOR: **Senator Bromley of Cumberland**

LR 2566

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Change the Name of Little Island to Chickering Island

SUMMARY

This bill changes the name of Little Island to Chickering Island.

SPONSOR: **Senator Bromley of Cumberland**

LR 2762

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act Regarding Preferences in Bidding on Maine State Housing Authority Contracts

SUMMARY

This bill would eliminate preferences in bidding on contracts, adopted by rule by the Maine State Housing Authority, for companies that provide health insurance to their employees.

BROAD SUBJECT: **State and Local Government**

SPONSOR: **Representative Cain of Orono**

LR 2516

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

RESOLUTION, Amending the Constitution of Maine To Lower the Age of Eligibility for Election to the House of Representatives

SUMMARY

This resolution would amend the Constitution of Maine to decrease from 21 years of age to 18 years of age the minimum age for election to the Maine House of Representatives.

SPONSOR: **Senator Clukey of Aroostook**

LR 2496

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Municipal Tax Cap To Protect Municipalities That Use Reserve Funds To Lower Their Mill Rates

SUMMARY

This bill amends the laws governing the municipal tax cap to allow a municipality to use reserve funds raised through property taxes to reduce the mill rate without being penalized in the calculation of the municipal tax cap for the next year.

SPONSOR: **Senator Davis, P of Piscataquis**

LR 2534

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Double Fees Paid for Service of Writs and Complaints

SUMMARY

This bill would increase the fees to be paid to sheriffs and deputies for service of certain writs and complaints.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2793

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Purchasing Code of Conduct

SUMMARY

This bill would ensure that Maine is able to monitor and enforce compliance with the state purchasing code of conduct, including disclosure of factory locations, independent monitoring, and providing alternative methods of enforcing compliance.

SPONSOR: **Representative Hanley, B of Paris**

LR 2452

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Buckfield Village Corporation To Be Dissolved and Combined with the Town of Buckfield

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the dissolution of the Buckfield Village Corporation and allows it to become part of the Town of Buckfield. This request as LR 2410 was withdrawn at the May 26, 2005 meeting of the Legislative Council.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: State and Local Government

SPONSOR: Senator Hobbins of York

LR 2959

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Confirm the Authority of the City of Saco To Acquire Extraterritorial Facilities

SUMMARY

This bill would confirm the authority of the City of Saco, as provided in its charter, to issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness to acquire interests in real estate located outside the political boundaries of the city in order to improve environmental or economic conditions within the city. This confirmation of the city's extraterritorial authority is required in connection with the city's plan to issue bonds to acquire and ultimately close the MERC facility in Biddeford.

SPONSOR: Senator Martin of Aroostook

LR 2568

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Allow the Towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman To Deposit All Tax Revenues, Grant Revenues and Other Income and Revenues into One Depository Account

SUMMARY

This bill would allow the towns of Mapleton, Castle Hill and Chapman to deposit all tax receipts, grant receipts and other income and revenues of the towns into one depository account pursuant to an interlocal agreement.

SPONSOR: Representative McKenney of Cumberland

LR 2562

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Authorize Chebeague Island To Secede from the Town of Cumberland

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize Chebeague Island to secede from the Town of Cumberland.

SPONSOR: Representative Moore, G of Standish

LR 2463

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Increase the Salary of the Governor

SUMMARY

This bill provides that the next governor must be paid at least 10% more than any other State Government employee.

SPONSOR: Senator Raye of Washington

LR 2453

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act Authorizing the Deorganization of Drew Plantation

SUMMARY

This bill continues the process of deorganizing Drew Plantation. This request as LR 2375 was withdrawn at the May 26, 2005 meeting of the Legislative Council.

BROAD SUBJECT: State and Local Government

SPONSOR: Senator Schneider of Penobscot

LR 2790

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Encourage Reporting of Potential Fraud in State Government

SUMMARY

This bill would ensure confidentiality of information provided to government hotlines that employees and the public call to report potential fraud regarding internal financial operations of government. The bill would also authorize the State to establish a confidential fraud hotline to enable members of the public to report potential fraud and abuses of State Government programs.

SPONSOR: Senator Weston of Waldo

LR 2690

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Fees for Probate Filings

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the fees for probate filings.

BROAD SUBJECT: Taxation

SPONSOR: Senator Andrews of York

LR 2611

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Clarify the Taxable Status of Lobster Traps

SUMMARY

This bill would make the taxing of lobster traps optional.

SPONSOR: Senator Andrews of York

LR 2611

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Clarify the Taxable Status of Lobster Traps

SUMMARY

This bill would make the taxing of lobster traps optional.

SPONSOR: Senator Bartlett of Cumberland

LR 2695

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Encourage Energy Independence for Maine

SUMMARY

This bill would create a tax credit for companies that make biofuels. The bill would also create a tax credit for companies, manufacturers and supplies of renewable energy or green-based products. The bill would establish a hot line for contributions to supplement the LIHEAP program and also allocate \$20 million from the General Fund to supplement the LIHEAP program.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Taxation**

SPONSOR: **Senator Cowger of Kennebec**

LR 2802

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Taxable Status of Processing Fees Charged in Connection with Cancelled Lodging Reservations

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify the sales tax law to specifically state that processing fees or forfeited advanced deposits held by an innkeeper in connection with a cancelled lodging reservation or the failure of a guest to show on the day of arrival are not subject to sales tax.

SPONSOR: **Representative Craven of Lewiston**

LR 2653

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Assessment of Property Taxes in the Event of a Change of Ownership of the Property

SUMMARY

This bill would require the tax assessor to change the records once notice of a change in ownership of real property is received. Additionally this bill would exempt the previous property owner from liability for any taxes incurred after the change in ownership as long as the previous property owner provides certain information, such as a copy of the executed deed, to the assessor.

SPONSOR: **Representative Cummings of Portland**

LR 2537

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Provide Additional Property Tax Relief to Maine Citizens

SUMMARY

This bill would require municipalities to use 90% of the increased state funding for education for property tax relief beginning in fiscal year 2006-07.

SPONSOR: **Senator Davis, P of Piscataquis**

LR 2637

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Exempt Snow Grooming Equipment and Machinery from the Personal Property Tax

SUMMARY

This bill would exempt snow grooming equipment and machinery from the personal property tax.

SPONSOR: **Representative Driscoll of Westbrook**

LR 2975

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Promote College Savings Accounts

SUMMARY

This bill would treat all out-of-state 529 plans the same as Maine's 529 plan for the purposes of taxation.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Taxation**

SPONSOR: **Representative Dunn of Bangor**

LR 2888

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Adjust the Excise Tax Filing Schedule for Wine and Beer Producers

SUMMARY

This bill would change the excise tax filing schedule for wine producers to coincide with the sales tax schedule.

SPONSOR: **Representative Duplessie of Westbrook**

LR 2686

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify Municipal Valuations of Resort Property

SUMMARY

This bill would require that time share valuations for tax purposes be based on a building's value as if the unit were owned by a single taxpayer.

SPONSOR: **President Edmonds of Cumberland**

LR 2798

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Strengthen Maine's Craft Brewing Industry

SUMMARY

This bill would create tax incentives for craft breweries to increase their exports of malt beverages and would create a new license for contract brewers.

SPONSOR: **Representative Fletcher of Winslow**

LR 2724

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Conserve Energy in Maine Homes

SUMMARY

This bill would restore funding to the Maine State Housing Authority from the real estate transfer tax to be used to weatherize the homes of Maine residents to reduce energy consumption.

SPONSOR: **Senator Mitchell of Kennebec**

LR 2528

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish a Refundable Historic Rehabilitation Credit

SUMMARY

This bill would allow a refundable historic rehabilitation credit to a developer that owns 2 or more structures located in the Kennebec Arsenal District National Historic Landmark. The refundable credit is limited to \$500,000 per year and is allowed only for 4 consecutive tax years beginning in 2006.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Taxation**

SPONSOR: **Senator Perry, J of Penobscot**

LR 2982

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Ensure Continued Viability of Affordable Housing

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify that intangible assets should not be taken into account in the assessment of affordable housing projects financed with the federal Low-income Housing Tax Credit.

SPONSOR: **Representative Piotti of Unity**

LR 2812

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Exempt Vegetable Seeds for Home Gardens from the Sales Tax

SUMMARY

This bill would repeal the tax on vegetable seeds for home gardens.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2749

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Eliminate the Double Taxation of Motor Fuels

SUMMARY

This bill would allow consumers to apply for a rebate for fuel taxes for miles traveled on the Maine Turnpike.

SPONSOR: **Speaker Richardson, J of Brunswick**

LR 2752

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Encourage New Businesses and Business Expansions in Maine

SUMMARY

This bill would exempt from the personal property tax business machinery and equipment and replace the Business Tax Reimbursement program with a reimbursement to municipalities currently receiving revenues from the personal property tax on business equipment.

SPONSOR: **Representative Schatz of Blue Hill**

LR 2965

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Excise Tax on New Automobiles

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the laws governing the excise tax on new automobiles.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Taxation**

SPONSOR: **Senator Sullivan of York**

LR 2666

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Qualifications for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program

SUMMARY

This bill would allow residents who rent out their property to qualify for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program if they rent out the property for less than one month per year.

SPONSOR: **Representative Tardy of Newport**

LR 2882

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish Guidelines and Criteria for Maine Revenue Services Audits

SUMMARY

This bill would establish guidelines and criteria for Maine Revenue Service audits.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Transportation**

SPONSOR: **Representative Ash of Belfast**

LR 2486

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prevent Dangerous Commercial Drivers on Maine's Highways

SUMMARY

This bill requires an agency within Maine to request an independent contractor using a commercial driver's license to provide verification of a valid driver's license and driving record before the agency hires the contractor to transport goods on Maine's highways.

SPONSOR: **Representative Blanchard of Old Town**

LR 2472

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Ensure Business Equity and Commercial Vehicle Registration

SUMMARY

This bill requires the registration in Maine of all construction and road-maintenance-oriented vehicles being rented in Maine for operation on a public way.

SPONSOR: **Senator Bromley of Cumberland**

LR 2598

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve the Process for Issuing Duplicate Motor Vehicle Certificates of Title

SUMMARY

This bill would eliminate the requirement that a duplicate certificate of title or certificate of salvage contain language indicating that the certificate is a duplicate.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Transportation**

SPONSOR: **Representative Carr of Lincoln**

LR 2607

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Increase Efficiency in Truck Hauling

SUMMARY

This bill allows trucks hauling chips and sawdust in trailers that are 53 feet long to utilize the same roads that trucks with trailers that are 48 feet long are authorized to use, as long as the overall length of the truck and trailer is not over 74 feet and the wheel base axle distance is the same.

SPONSOR: **Representative Craven of Lewiston**

LR 2651

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Require That New Road Construction or Repair Include Sidewalks or Bike Trails or Both

SUMMARY

This bill would require that new road construction and repair include sidewalks or bike trails or both.

SPONSOR: **Representative Crosby of Topsham**

LR 2700

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Allow Businesses To Place a Sign at the Topsham Mall Exit on Interstate 95

SUMMARY

This bill would allow businesses to pay the \$12,000 cost to put a sign at the Topsham exit on Interstate 95.

SPONSOR: **Representative Curley of Scarborough**

LR 2488

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Safeguard Maine's Highways

SUMMARY

This bill would enact measures concerning drivers with multiple driving offenses to better safeguard Maine's highways. This bill would implement the recommendations of the Perpetual Violators in Maine Working group, including the establishment of mandatory jail time for repeat offenders.

SPONSOR: **Senator Diamond of Cumberland**

LR 2625

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Assessment of Costs To Maintain a Private Way or Bridge

SUMMARY

This bill would require an assessment for the repair or maintenance of a private way or bridge to be applied proportionally on the owners according to the assessed valuation.

BROAD SUBJECT: **Transportation**

SPONSOR: **Representative Duplessie of Westbrook**

LR 2684

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve Traffic Safety at Intersections

SUMMARY

This bill would require traffic signal lights to have a specific time delay between changes and would establish the minimum duration of that delay.

SPONSOR: **Representative Finch of Fairfield**

LR 2671

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Real Estate Values Impaired by Railroad Operations

SUMMARY

This bill would require the railroad to offer to purchase any property located within 1000 feet of a railroad grade crossing where horns are sounded that remains on the market for more than one year.

SPONSOR: **Representative Jackson of Fort Kent**

LR 2719

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Clarify the Intent of the Law That Allows Retired Firefighters To Retain Their Firefighter License Plates

SUMMARY

This bill would clarify the intent of Public Law 2005, chapter 80, "An Act To Allow Retired Firefighters To Retain Their Firefighter License Plates," so that it applies retroactively to all retired firefighters.

SPONSOR: **Representative Marley of Portland**

LR 2621

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Prohibit Parking in Access Aisles and To Establish a Minimum Width for Access Aisles

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a minimum width for access aisles adjacent to parking spaces for the physically disabled in which parking is prohibited.

SPONSOR: **Representative Sampson of Auburn**

LR 2659

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Modernize the Charter of the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company

SUMMARY

This bill would update the articles of incorporation of the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company.

BROAD SUBJECT: Transportation

SPONSOR: Senator Savage of Knox

LR 2622

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Ferry Service Travel for Individuals with Catastrophic Illness

SUMMARY

This bill would offer transportation services from the Maine State Ferry Service to and from regularly scheduled, medically necessary appointments with medical care providers to a person who has a catastrophic illness.

BROAD SUBJECT: Utilities and Energy

SPONSOR: Representative Bishop of Boothbay

LR 2703

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the territory of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District to include all of the territory of the Town of Boothbay to provide for regional sewer service. The bill also increases the debt limit of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District from \$5,500,000 to \$8,500,000 to assist the Town of Boothbay in extending sewer service north along the State Route 27 corridor to allow for economic development and the additional protection of the region's drinking water resources in the Adams Pond watershed.

SPONSOR: Representative Brautigam of Falmouth

LR 2958

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Protect Maine's Electricity Consumers

SUMMARY

This bill would give the Public Utilities Commission the authority to withdraw from participation in the system of any independent system operator if the commission finds that the interests of Maine electricity consumers are not adequately protected.

SPONSOR: President Edmonds of Cumberland

LR 2800

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Enhance Competition and Consumer Choice in the Telecommunications Industry

SUMMARY

This bill would create a statewide cable franchise system, based on a similar system enacted in Texas.

122nd Legislature - Second Regular Session
Accepted Bills By Broad Subject

BROAD SUBJECT: **Utilities and Energy**

SPONSOR: **Representative Jackson of Fort Kent**

LR 2620

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Change the Charter of the Saint Francis Water District

SUMMARY

This bill would amend the charter of the Saint Francis Water District to allow town selectmen to serve on the water district board.

SPONSOR: **Senator Martin of Aroostook**

LR 2596

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Create the Washburn Water and Sewer District

SUMMARY

This bill would create the Washburn Water and Sewer District.

SPONSOR: **Senator Mills, P of Somerset**

LR 2532

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Establish the Athens Standard Water District

SUMMARY

This bill would establish the Athens Water District.

SPONSOR: **Representative Robinson of Raymond**

LR 2520

ACCEPTED ON: 11/28/2005

An Act To Allow for Access to Digital Phone Service for Customers in Rural Areas

SUMMARY

This bill would allow customers in rural areas access to digital phone service provided through cable companies.

SPONSOR: **Representative Thomas of Ripley**

LR 2552

ACCEPTED ON: 10/27/2005

An Act To Improve Cell Phone Service in Maine

SUMMARY

This bill would allow cell phone users to keep analog phones when switching service until the quality of digital service is equal to that of analog in all parts of the State.
